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Identical letters dated 27 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention once again to the inhumane conditions and the daily suffering being endured by the people of the towns of Kafraya and Fu'ah in Idlib governorate. Those towns have been under a siege by armed terrorist groups with multiple affiliations that for several years now have blocked any possibility of delivering humanitarian assistance. In the meantime, senior officials of the United Nations, its human rights bodies and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs have remained completely silent, while statements and declarations by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have been full of claptrap about their concern for Syrian citizens.

The catastrophic conditions being endured by more than 7,000 Syrian civilians trapped in an area of no more than 10 square kilometres are a stain on humanity and the Western States that have turned their backs on the suffering of those civilians, who are mostly women and children and who lack the most basic living needs, including food, medicine and any kind of potable or clean water. Entire families are surviving on a ration of half a cubic metre of water for several days. In addition, fuel shortages preclude any attempts to obtain water or electricity. Further contributing to the deterioration of the humanitarian conditions of women and children is the fact that they are deprived of basic health care. They are not receiving the inoculations necessary for preventing the communicable and non-communicable diseases that have become widespread because of the brutal siege conditions. They are unable to obtain suitable clothing to protect their bodies from the summer heat and the winter cold.

The so-called international community has left the people of Kafraya and Fu'ah at the mercy of the armed terrorist organizations that are active in the Idlib countryside with support from certain well-known Governments and regimes. The most prominent of those groups is the Nusrah Front, which appears on the United Nations lists of terrorist organizations. The United Nations has stopped demanding that humanitarian assistance convoys should be sent to the area since implementation of the Four Towns Agreement a few months ago.

It is unacceptable that the Security Council should remain silent as a generation of Syrian children from those towns spends its childhood years growing up deprived of its basic rights, including its right to life and a sense of security, and

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its right to play without fear of stray bullets and treacherous missiles. Those children are also being deprived of their right to education and health care. All of this raises doubts about the seriousness and credibility of United Nations human rights programmes and initiatives in general, and particularly those having to do with the rights of children.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations and the Security Council, which is meeting today to discuss the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, to take immediate action to end the suffering of the people of Fu'ah and Kafraya, against whom the terrorist organizations are trying to commit genocide through siege, starvation and sniper and missile attacks. They are even committing vicious acts of terrorism against those who have temporarily evacuated, such as the Rashidin bombing on 15 April 2017 that took the lives of more than 120 women and children, and injured dozens of others of other innocent civilians.

The people of Fu'ah and Kafraya are crying out to the conscience of the world to save them before it is too late. Will certain members of the Security Council stop politicizing humanitarian assistance and act to save the people of Fu'ah and Kafraya before it is too late? It is not a matter of days or weeks. Immediate action must be taken to deliver food and medical supplies to Fu'ah and Kafraya.

I should be grateful if these two letters could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative